

PRE-PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT

Undergraduate Credit Required	Bachelor's degree
Entrance Exam	GRE (some schools) or PA-CAT (some schools)
Professional Schooling Required	26-28 months of professional school; Master of Physician Assistant Studies
Local Professional Schools	West Chester University, Arcadia University, Drexel, Temple, Penn State, PCOM, Thomas Jefferson University, Slippery Rock University, etc...
Professional Organization Websites	aapa.org (American Academy of Physician Assistants); paeaonline.org (Physician Assistant Education Association)
Major	Students can major in any subject at WCU for Pre-PA. The most common majors that align with Pre-PA school pre-requisites are Biology: Cell and Molecular Biology, Biology: Integrative Concentration, and Chemistry: Chem-Bio.

REQUIRED AND SUGGESTED ELECTIVES FOR WCU UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

The following course recommendations are general requirements for PA programs. For the specific requirements of your school of choice and whether AP/IB credit is accepted, please refer to that school's admissions website or contact those schools for a list of entrance requirements.

PA SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Biological Sciences with labs (min. 2 courses; 3 suggested)

BIO 110 General Biology I, BIO 111 General Biology II, BIO 211 Cell Biology, BIO 215 Botany, BIO 217 Zoology

Course	Term	Grade

Genetics (required by some schools)

Course	Term	Grade
BIO 210		

Microbiology (required by some schools)

Course	Term	Grade
BIO 214		

General Chemistry with lab

Course	Term	Grade
CHE 103 & CRL 103		
CHE 104 & CRL 104		

Organic Chemistry with lab (1 course required; 2 recommended)

Course	Term	Grade
CHE 231 & CRL 231 (required)		
CHE 232 (Recommended)		

Biochemistry (recommended)

Course	Term	Grade
CHE 476 and 477		

Anatomy and Physiology

Course	Term	Grade
BIO 259		
BIO 269		

Medical Terminology (required by some schools)

Course	Term	Grade
HEA 370		

English Composition (3 to 6 hrs)

Course	Term	Grade
WRT 120		
WRT 2XX		

Calculus and Statistics (please contact school for specific admissions requirement)

Course	Term	Grade
MAT 121		
MAT 145		

General Physics (recommended)

Course	Term	Grade
PHY 100 or 130		

Social Sciences including, but not limited to, PSY 100, PSY 210, PSY 375, History, Anthropology, SOC 100, etc... 6 to 9 credit hours (please contact school for specific admissions requirement)

Course	Term	Grade

Sample Course Plan of Pre-PA Requirements

Semester 1

CHE 103
CRL 103
BIO 110
WRT 120
MAT 121

Semester 2

CHE 104
CRL 104
BIO 111
WRT 2XX
MAT 145

Semester 3

CHE 231
CRL 231
PHY 100 or 130
BIO 210
General/Major Electives

Semester 4

BIO 214
PSY 100
BIO 211
General/Major Electives

Semester 5

BIO 259
General/Major Electives

Semester 6

BIO 269
HEA 370
General/Major Electives

Semester 7

General/Major Electives

Semester 8

General/Major Electives

SUGGESTED ELECTIVES

BIO 357. Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy

BIO 367. Drug Interactions

BIO 440. Human Genetics

BIO 448. Animal Development

BIO 465. Immunology

BIO 468. Comparative Vertebrate Physiology

BIO 469. Human Physiology*

CHE 477. Biochemistry 2

CSD 101. Introduction to Communicative Disorders

HEA 109. Health Issues of Women

HEA 110. Transcultural Health: Principles and Practice

NTD 200. Nutrition and Culture

NTD 303. Introductory Principles Human Nutrition

PHI 371. Medical Ethics

* Does not count as a Biology major elective

BEYOND ACADEMICS

Pre-PA students are encouraged to participate in experiences such as leadership roles, volunteer work, research, and shadowing, which will help prepare them for PA school and the medical profession. Such experiences demonstrate a commitment to and knowledge of the profession. All students are **STRONGLY** encouraged to **shadow medical professionals, volunteering with health providers**, get involved with research and pursue internships. Pre-PA students should obtain **500+ hours of work experience** consisting of direct patient care in a medical setting (total hours vary by school). Additionally, involvement with clubs such as Pre-Med Club, Pre-PA Club and Minorities in Medicine, will help students to learn more about the medical profession. Activities beyond the classroom play a significant role in a student's application to a professional school program.

APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

Most physician assistant programs participate in the Central Application Service for Physician Assistants (CASPA). Applications can be completed at caspa.liaisoncas.com. Schools will then contact you to verify receipt of your application and inform you of any additional materials they require to complete your application.

ENTRANCE EXAMS

The **Graduate Record Exam (GRE)** is required for some programs: ets.org/gre. The **Physician Assistant College Admission Test (PA-CAT)** is a specialized test that is designed to measure applicant knowledge and application in key prerequisite science subjects typically required for PA school. <https://www.pa-cat.com/> Please review your schools of choice to learn of specific admission test requirements.

ADDITIONAL APPLICATION INFORMATION

Applications to PA school require a **personal statement** and **letters of recommendation/evaluation**. The number of required letters varies by school. For the WCU Pre-Medical program, you will need to collect a minimum of 5 letters of recommendation (at least one from a PA) and have them submitted to the pre-med office prior to requesting an interview from the pre-medical committee.



Director, Pre-Medical Program – Dr. Teresa Donze-Reiner

WCU does not discriminate based upon any protected status.
Please see www.wcupa.edu/admin/social.equity/

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